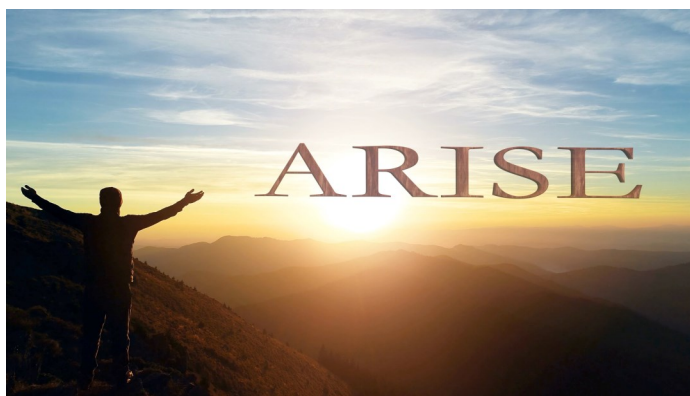


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Arise: Peace

April 23 & 24, 2022

After Jesus was crucified, the disciples were hiding in the Upper Room feeling anything but peace, until...

SCRIPTURE TEXT: JOHN 20:9, 20-21

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

Here is the situation that the disciples found themselves in. They were known followers of Jesus. They had trusted that Jesus would be the savior of the world. Then everything fell apart. Suddenly Jesus was seen as a criminal. The masses, the Jewish leaders and all the town people turned against Jesus and had him crucified. So, not only did Jesus die, but because they followed him, now the disciples' lives were in danger. They locked the doors because they were afraid. As they hovered in fear, the last thing the disciples were expecting to see was Jesus. And the last thing the disciples were expecting to hear were those amazing, life giving words that Jesus said to them: "Peace be with you!"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share about something you fear. Is there a story behind why you fear that thing? Does this fear keep you safe or does it hinder you in some way?
- The disciples hid behind a locked door. We often lock the door to our heart when we feel afraid of being rejected, hurt, or betrayed. Share about a time you responded this way out of fear of rejection, hurt, or betrayal. Was it a helpful response?
- What are unhelpful/unhealthy things you do because of fear? What are some helpful/healthy ways you respond to fear?
- Has Jesus ever met you in a time of fear? What did you hear him say to you?
- Look up some other scripture passages (such as John 16:33, Psalm 4:8, Daniel 10:19, Isaiah 32:17, Romans 15:13) about peace. How do these verses enhance your understanding about the peace Jesus gives?

APPLICATION: Find some quiet time this week to reflect on this good news: "The Peace Jesus brings is a deep heart knowledge that no matter what we go through, He is dwelling in it with us. There is no locked door that can keep Jesus out!" How has this been true in your life?